



**Next meeting 2 January
0600 PM to 0900 PM**

Guest Speaker: Jeff Harrell

"Fly Fishing, Beer & Life!"

Jeff is a husband, father, artist and avid fly fisherman who owns and founded the Bar Fly; "the worlds first fly fishing bar!" Bar Fly is a full bar & restaurant with a fly fishing clothing & accessories shop located in Safety Harbor, Florida. Jeff worked for the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches for 13 years instructing youth fly casting/fly tying clinics. Jeff also directed youth fly fishing camp programs and led guided trips throughout Florida and N Georgia. He lives in Crystal Beach, Fl and travels throughout Florida, N Carolina, N Georgia and to the Caribbean to fly fish usually with his 10 year old son and wife in between running Bar Fly.

Fly Tyer: Jeff Boatman

Please come and watch one our new, young members tie a gurgler. This is a great top water pattern that should be in your box. Pictured on the right, simple to tie and fun to fish.



Directions to Our Meetings (0600pm): From I-75---Take Bruce B. Downs exit from I-75; go west 2 miles to traffic light, turn left on to Tampa Palms Blvd., then left on Compton Drive, and right at Compton Park. From I-275---Take Bearss East to Bruce. B. Downs; then Bruce B. Downs east/north to Tampa Palms Blvd. Rt. on Tampa Palms, then left on Compton Drive and right at Compton Park.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to a new year and great winter fishing. Check our fishing report for tips to find more fish on the flats.

I hope you enjoyed our holiday party last month. Thanks for all who helped cook: Robert, Lance, Ginny, Patty, Brenda and Nanette. Special thanks to Denise and Patty for decorating the tables. Denise made great center pieces complete with a bottle of fine wine from Trader Joe's. We had great fun with our gift exchange and enjoyed the good food you brought.

Thanks to all who participated and set up our casting clinic. It was a success despite mixed weather.

I encourage new members to go to our Facebook page to check our club news. You may also post your fish pictures or informative comments.

Please note my new home phone number is 813-513-2122.

// Walt Durkin 

EVENTS

- RedFly Tournament 19 Jan, Apollo Beach
- Shad outing on the St John's river 1-3 Feb
- East Lake Woodlands seminar re-scheduled to 24 Feb 19.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President: Walt Durkin	813-513-2122
Walt.durkin@aol.com	cell 813-853-5870
Vice President: Ted Hagaman	813-920-7863
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Robert Fischer	813-962-0185
Bruce Anderson	813-960-8523
Rick O'Hara	813-238-6763

TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

Shad Outing St Johns River – 1-3 Feb

Please join us for this annual outing where we camp out for the weekend on the St Johns river and fish for shad. This is great fun and we will have details at the next meeting.

Costa de Cocas Trip, 9-15 February. Hosted by the Mangrove Club with 6 openings. Five days of fishing for \$2500. Contact JT for more info: jaytinsky@comcast.net
310-463-0733

FLY FISHING RESOLUTIONS OF THE MONTH

- Take five minutes to observe before fishing.
- Support your local fly shop.
- Be more friendly on the flats.

Girls Fish Too!

A Fly Fishing Clinic for Women

9 February at Picnic Island

Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/girls-fish-too-fly-fishing-workshop-for-women-tickets-51630092998>

Learn the basics of fly fishing in a workshop by women for women! \$40 per person. Workshop covers equipment, knots, flies, and casting instruction, with plenty of time for practice in small groups with patient instructors. Bring your own fly rod or we'll provide one for you to use.

Suitable for ages 16 and up (minors must have adult paid parent or guardian)

Cost \$40.00 per person - Includes lunch, goody bag, raffle ticket, Beginner Manual and 1-year membership in the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

Workshop limited to 25 women

Sponsored by the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club and Not A Clue Adventures

QUESTIONS: Nanette at nholland2@verizon.net or (813) 428-3182 or Jeanene at (813) 789-0904



Tips for TBFFC

The Roll Cast

I watched a video on roll casting that was quite useful. Go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aRaCV5c63mY> to look for yourself. I remember Mel Fisher telling us years ago that the roll cast was one of the most important. Moreover, that was the first cast he taught beginners. The roll cast is useful to present the fly to a fish and also to get control of your line when you have slack in it. I suggest you watch this video and spend time practicing the roll cast to improve your casting and fishing.

Red Fly Tournament – 19 January

- MANDATORY check in and captain's meeting on Saturday, 1/19/2019 at 5:30-6:30 am at Salty Shamrock Gastro Grille, 6816 US Hwy 41, Apollo Beach, FL 33572.
- Bring a measuring device to the captain's meeting. \$50.00 entry fee per 2-man team. \$25.00 entry fee per solo angler. Registration fees will be collected at the captain's meeting. CASH ONLY.
- Weigh-in will be after the tournament at 3:00-4:00 pm on 1/19/2019. Anglers MUST be at the weigh-in NO LATER THAN 4:00 pm on 1/19/2019.
- This is a catch-photo-and-release tournament. Each angler/team must provide at least one digital camera with a clear memory card or cell phone pictures will be allowed. Fly fishing only from a boat or wading anywhere on the West coast.
- Largest 2 redfish total to the nearest ¼ inch will win. 100% payback. 1st place – 60%, 2nd place – 30%, 3rd place – 10%. There will be a prize raffle after the weigh-in at the Salty Shamrock Gastro Grille. The raffle will take place around 4:45pm on 1/19/2019.
- Tickets will be \$5 each or 5 for \$20. 100% of ALL raffle proceeds will benefit Captains For Clean Water. For information contact Capt. Jon Bull at 863-860-7250 or jbull1229@gmail.com



Lessons Learned the Hard Way

Throughout the “process” of learning to fly fish we are taught many lessons. Some lessons are learned from reading about stuff or watching videos, some from talking to people, some from watching people and some from doing stuff ourselves. This last group is called “experience” and is often the most profound and painful way to learn. The club’s recent trip to the Chattooga River taught me a few of these.

Mash down your barbs- even on the smallest of hooks. Tiny little hooks can very easily penetrate your fingers (ouch!), your gloves (a mess to get free), or your waders (a leak).

Have a good wading staff- last year a wooden stick failed while crossing a stream and resulted in the only time my waders filled with stream water. This year a good quality wading staff added to the comfort and safety of the whole trip.

Rain jacket- when using waders and rain gear don’t put your rain jacket inside your waders. After fishing in the cold rain for a few hours, shaking got so bad that fishing had to stop. Reason- the GoreTex rain jacket very efficiently channeled all the rain water inside the GoreTex waders soaking the dry warm clothes.

Lessons learned! If you have some more examples, please send them into the newsletter so that we can all benefit from your “learning” too.

Robert Fischer, Club Member



Christmas party pictures: Nanette, Patty, Ginny and Denise above left and many additional merry makers. Thanks for celebrating with us!

**January 12th from noon to 5pm. The Ritz-Carlton Outfitters Top Gun Distance Fly Cast
Competition January 12, 2019 4pm**

Come spend an afternoon visiting with the professional partners of The Ritz-Carlton Outfitters in Orlando. These vendors and fishing organizations have been carefully chosen to support the internationally recognized The Ritz-Carlton Outfitters in their fly casting instruction, guided fishing trips as well as Florida Master Naturalist led eco tours.

Checkout the latest equipment from G.Loomis, Shimano, Rapala, DOA Lures, Simms, Rio Lines, Ross Reels, Orlando Outfitters, Tackle Webs as well as great organizations like Fly Fishers International and Casting for Recovery.

At 4pm watch the finals of The Ritz-Carlton Outfitters Top Gun Fly Casting Competition as the best long distance casters in the state take on challengers as they throw an 11wt incredible distances to compete for the title of Top Gun.

Join us for The Ritz-Carlton Outfitters Demo Day located behind The Ritz-Carlton Golf Clubhouse. Admission and parking are free and the public is welcome.

A single event, long distance fly cast competition with an 11wt 9' single hand fly rod.
Eight contestants, four of which are preselected, top long distance fly casters in Florida.
Capt. Dave Chouinard, Dr. Zack Jud, David Olson, Cas Summers

Four wild card, open spots with qualifying taking place from 1pm to 3pm day of event

Contestants can bring their own 9' single hand fly rod of choice to use with the provided, 11wt Rio Tarpon Technical fly line and Rio Slick Shooter line on a Ross Reel.

Casting Clinic December 15, 2018

It is Saturday 6:00 AM dark and raining. The radar screen for Tampa shows several fronts skirting the area until late this morning. Will anyone show up for the casting clinic? Too late to cancel! At 7:00 AM Dayle, Pat, Chris and I arrive at Shelter 611 at Picnic Island to layout out the casting course.

This year the casting clinic was hosted by the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club (TBFFC). This is an annual event alternating between the TBFFC and Suncoast Fly Fishers. This event started in 2007 by Pat Damico, FFI Master Certified Instructor (MCI) and at times is a bi-annual event. Picnic Island provided adequate space for the casting stations however a short-lived rain did present a little challenge but that did not discourage club members from taking advantage of several hours of excellent casting instruction. Dayle Mazarella, MCI, designed the program and course. We had several excellent assistants including Pat Damico, MCI, Ken Zadoyko, MCI, Chris O'Byrne, CI, and Leigh West and Steve Parker, two well-known instructors from the Tampa Club.

Beginning at 8:00 AM, Patty and Bruce Anderson registered the attendees and signed up new FFI members. The casting clinic is primarily staffed by FFI Certified Master Casting Instructors and Certified Casting Instructors. The casting clinics are free to all FFI members and \$35 for others which includes FFI membership. The club provided a breakfast of coffee and bagels and a light lunch of sandwiches, chips, cookies and beverages. We had 30 attendees which included many new to salt water fly fishing. These clinics have been a great way to increase FFI and club memberships and at this session we had 8 new members.

Dayle had the participants pair up and the morning session stressed basic casting fundamentals and drills to improve casting skills.

After lunch, Dayle reviewed some exercises to maintain muscle strength and balance. Members rotated every 30 minutes to 4 stations that included the saltwater quick cast, distance casting, accuracy and fighting fish. The casting clinic ended at 3:00 PM.

It was a great session and provided FFI members an opportunity to improve their casting skills as a benefit of their membership.

Tom Gadacz

Pat Damico



Thanks to all who participated and organized our casting clinic. This was a great event for Club members and we supported the Fly Fishers International.

Rat Fly

I started fishing this small crab/shrimp fly in December 2017. On four trips the first week I caught 13 fish: 4 reds, 4 trout, 4 snook and 1 sheepshead. I really tied it with sheepshead in mind and that was the first fish I caught as it tailed first thing in the morning,

Hook: Gamakatsu B10S Stinger, size 6 or Mustad Tarpon 2XH/2XS, size 4. Use bead chain eyes on the stinger hook for a light fly and small lead eyes on the Mustad hook for a little heavier fly.

I have been tying mostly with clear monothread. On the light hook, tie in the bead chain and add 3/8 inch lead wire behind and over the eyes to form a keel. Tie in a bit of orange rabbit for a small hot spot to represent an egg sack at the bend. Next, cut two small pieces of thin zonker strips and tie one on each side of the hot spot in the back; angle them up a little. Use crystal flash to complete the body. I also add one strand of hard Mason (20 lb) for a weed guard. Tie the fly in tan or brown to fish over sand and black or green to fish over grass. You can also use Puglici tarantula brush for the body. However, the Crystal flash works fine and is a little brighter. This simple fly is a winner as it hops along the bottom with lively legs. Great for sight fishing in the winter for all game fish. You can also strip it slowly in deeper water to imitate a shrimp. //Walt Durkin



Patty and Bruce with their first bone fish in Mexico and Walt with a baby tarpon. Our trip to Mexico is Oct 19-26 2019.





Ken Moser with his first red on a fly at Cypress (33 inches!) Way to go Ken. Rick O'Hara upper right, and Ted with a big drum and red on the MacDill flat.

Capt. Brandon Henley of Florida Keys Fly Fishing sent these pictures and says the keys fishing is good, especially for bone fish.



Our new **traveling club flags** are on the move! Four club members in Cayo Coco, Cuba in May. Lower right **Ted and Frank** in Cordova AK in September. **Lou and Walt** at Casuarina Point, Abaco, Bahamas in April 2018.



Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

Capt. Pat Damico sends this from his Captain’s Corner: **Avoiding Red Tide with your fly rod**

Much of the area I would usually fish still has some Red Tide issues that are in a state of flux. Wind, water temperature, tides and nutrients keep us guessing to find suitable areas to fish. Many of our recent trips have been to rivers where a fresh water influx has the water in pristine condition. Some areas of Tamp Bay are free of this nuisance, but marginal areas are a constant challenge. One of my best indicators of healthy water is the presence of baitfish. Predator fish and fish eating birds have to eat to live. Their activity is a key. Baitfish always seem to be present around bridges, some of ours have very deep water, and all have large supports that harbor bait. With a fly rod, even with sinking tip lines, full sinking lines and weighted flies fishing deep is a challenge even when we have fish located. Having your fly in front of a fish's nose becomes more difficult, but necessary, as water gets deep. We have found that docks close to bridges have been very effective especially during lower tides. Snook, trout and reds are rarely in the extreme shallows but seem most prevalent in the deepest water of the dock. The low tide means careful casting far under the dock and allows our weighted baitfish pattern flies to then be worked near the deeper pilings where we have been finding most fish. Longer docks will have more deep supports and older structures have more subsurface hangouts to harbor baitfish and their predators. Cast under and work around boat lifts. A large boat on a lift usually means deeper water. Use the moving tide to effectively work the area, casting uptide to allow your flies to swing to the fish holding hot spot. Call Pat at (727) 504-8649.

Kayak guide Neil Taylor reports: Action has been solid for weeks now, if you can get out on a day that doesn't have blistering wind. It has been a windy start to winter. El Nino in the Pacific, this may be like 1997 and we will have wild weather every six days for the next four months. Fish around those fronts and succeed. We have done a lot of trout trips. There are great pockets of large trout all over the Bay. We have routinely hit trout over 20 inches. No giants but a 20-inch trout is no joke. The gurgler worked for a fly client. My white "clouser" with gold is subsurface and also caught trout. The water has maintained some warmth. The fish are mostly happy if you have figured out how to manage the wind

Capt. Rick Grasset reports: Anglers fishing with me, out of CB's Saltwater Outfitters on Siesta Key, had some action catching and releasing trout on flies and trout, reds and snook on CAL Shad tails and top water plugs in Tampa Bay recently. Anna Maria Island winter resident, Bill Morrison, fished with me on Weds and caught a few trout on an Ultra Hair Clouser fly. Jerry Roth, from Sanford, FL, fished with me on Thursday and had some action catching and releasing snook on a top water plug. It's always fun to watch a snook "blow up" on a top water plug! The best trip was on Friday, with the worst conditions, when Jon Yenari and Kyle Ruffing, from Sarasota, fished with me. The weather forecast was for wind and rain late in the day, which was wrong as it rained on us almost the entire day. When it finally quit raining the wind bumped up to above 20-mph. Despite that they caught and released 3 reds, about 10 trout and a snook to complete their slam on CAL shad tails. Great job! Fishing dock lights in the evening is usually a good option for catch and release snook fishing this time of year, although it is dependent on tide and conditions. Fishing shallow flats is both challenging and rewarding. It usually requires fishing hard to find and catch fish. One of the keys to success is finding clean water, whether it is on the flats or in the ICW. Our natural resources are under constant pressure from red tides fueled by agricultural and residential runoff, freezes, increasing fishing pressure and habitat loss and degradation, please limit your kill, don't kill your limit!



2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 19 Red Fly Tournament
- Feb 1-3 Shad Outing St John's River
- Feb 24 East Lake Woodlands fly fishing seminar
- Mar Annual Banquet
- Apr CCA Banquet
- June Lake Calm Freshwater Outing
- Oct Florida Sportsman Show
- Oct Marine Quest, St Pete
- Oct 27 – Nov 3 Mexico: Costa de Cocas trip
- Oct 27 Carl Hanson Outing, Hillsborough River
- Nov Chattooga Trip for trout
- Nov Big Gun, Picnic Island
- Dec Members Year End Party
- Dec Play Hooky at the Hatchery
- Dec Don Coleman Outing, Ft Desoto

Member Benefits

TBFFC is famous for its value and focus on the sharing of information, experience, and craftsmanship with its members. As a TBFFC member you will enjoy many benefits free or at nominal cost.

- Monthly Meetings with informative speakers
- Fishing Trips Sponsored by Members and the Club
- Group Clinics and Workshops
- Fly Tying Lessons
- One-On-One Fly Casting Lessons
- Shirts and Hats with club logo
- 80-page Beginner's Basic Skills Instruction Manual
- Annual Banquet

Fly Fishing Guides

- Capt. Nick Angelo (813) 230-8473
- Capt. Pat Damico (727) 504-8649
- Capt. Bryon Chamberlin (813) 361-8801
- Capt. Rick Grassett (941) 923-7799
- Capt. John Hand (239) 842-7778
- Capt. Frank Rhodes (863) 967-4258
- Capt. Greg Peterson (423) 432-1973

Fly Casting Coaches

Dade City

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South Tampa

Steve Parker.....813-287-5583

North Tampa

Robert Fischer.....813-962-0185

Dan Lagace.....813-929-6605

Leigh West813-971-8697

St. Petersburg

Capt. Pat Damico.....727-504-8649

Polk County

Capt. Frank Rhodes.....863-967-4258

Corporate Sponsors

These companies sponsored the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. Some are members of the club. We urge you to patronize them.

- 3-WAY CONSTRUCTION, Robert Fischer PO Box 342774, Tampa, 33694, (813) 495-5685.
- ALLIGATOR BOB'S Gourmet Alligator Meat Snacks, (813) 986-3008, WWW.GATORBOB.COM
- BARBED STEEL CHARTERS, Capt. Bryon Chamberlin, (813) 361-8801, captbryon@yahoo.com..
- REDFISH LANDING GUIDE SERVICE, Capt. John Hand www.RedfishLandingGuideService.com, (239) 842-7778
- THE FLY GUY, Capt. Pat Damico, (727) 504-8649 ,w ww.captpat.com, pat4jaws@hotmail.com
- SNOOK FIN-ADDICT GUIDE SERVICE, Capt. Rick Grasset, (941) 923-7799, www.snookfin-addict.com
- SWANN'S FLY FISHING SHOP, Jim Swann, 13650 South 98 Bypass, Dade City, 33525, (352) 567-6029
- Carbon Marine, 3916 W. Osborne Ave. Tampa Fl, 33614, 813-870-1234
- Tampa Fishing Outfitters, 3916 W. Osborne Ave, Tampa, FL; 813-870-1234, tampafishingoutfitters.com
- Dave Chouinard, Simms Fishing, 732-610-9700, Fax: 727-953-6296 ; Dave@ChouinardOutdoor.com

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2014 Member Application
Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

Name: _____

Date: _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: ___ Zip: _____

Hm. Phone: _____ Wk. Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Type of Membership: _____

Please Check: One Year _____ Five Year _____

Please list names you wish to include in family membership

Annual Dues: \$25.00 Individual Membership

\$35.00 Family Membership

\$95.00 Corporate Single Membership

(includes one membership and Ad Space)

\$120.00 Corporate Double Membership

(includes two memberships or family membership and

Ad Space in Newsletter)

Five-year dues: \$100.00 Individual Membership

\$140.00 Family Membership

Please make check payable to: Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club C/o Rick Valeri, 1404
Oxfordshire Ct. Brandon, 33510